



NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE CORONADO



Fact Sheet No. 3

April 2001

This fact sheet will tell you about . . .

- The U.S. Navy's environmental investigation and cleanup program underway at Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Coronado
- Incorporation of NAB Coronado activities into the Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island Restoration Advisory Board
- How to obtain more information

Introduction

This fact sheet updates the status of the U.S. Navy environmental investigation and cleanup program ongoing at NAB Coronado (see Figure 1). The Navy is required to meet specific standards and follow defined procedures in its cleanup process. This involves implementation of the Installation Restoration Program, a comprehensive environmental program initiated by the Department of Defense to investigate and clean up contamination from past hazardous waste practices at its facilities.

The cleanup process at NAB Coronado includes the opportunity for public input and comment on proposed activities. A community relations plan for NAB Coronado was originally prepared in 1995, as part of the joint Community Relations Plan with NAS North Island. It was updated in 1999 and will be updated again in 2002. This update will include interviews with local community members, elected officials, and representatives of various community groups. Information derived from the interviews will be used to develop a current plan for maintaining and enhancing two-way communication between the Navy and the community regarding environmental investigation and cleanup at NAB Coronado.

Background

Formally commissioned in January 1944, Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Coronado provides a shore base for the operations, training, and support of naval amphibious units on the West Coast. It is one of only two Navy amphibious training bases in the United States. NAB Coronado is approximately 1,000 acres in size and is composed of the Main Base, training beaches, a California Least Tern Preserve, recreational marina, and enlisted family housing. State Highway 75 separates NAB into surfside (ocean) and bayside portions (see Figure 2). The majority of the bayside is composed of fill materials dredged from San Diego Bay in the early 1940s.

Amphibious training is conducted on both surfside and bayside beaches.

To the south of the Main Base, the majority of amphibious training activities take place on about 257 acres of ocean beachfront property, leased from the state of California. A least tern nesting preserve is located on

North and South Delta Beach between the NAB Coronado Marina and Main Base.

NAB is located within the city of Coronado, California, a community of approximately 30,000. The city of Coronado covers nearly 9 square miles of land, and NAB Coronado lies south of the main residential and commercial portions of the city. Another

naval facility, Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island, is located northwest of the city of Coronado. South of NAB is the Silver Strand State Beach.

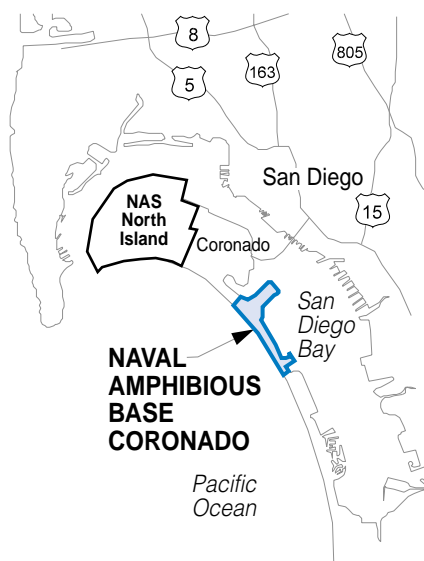


Figure 1

Installation Restoration Program

In 1980, the Department of Defense initially established the Installation Restoration (IR) Program. The purpose of the IR Program is to identify, characterize, and clean up or control contamination from past hazardous waste disposal operations and hazardous materials spills at Navy and Marine Corps installations. The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), is the lead state regulatory agency providing IR Program oversight. DTSC receives technical support from another state regulatory agency, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). NAB is actively involved in supporting and implementing its IR Program, which is managed by the Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command in San Diego.

The IR Program applies a phased approach to site investigations and cleanup. During the first phase, potential sites of hazardous waste contamination are

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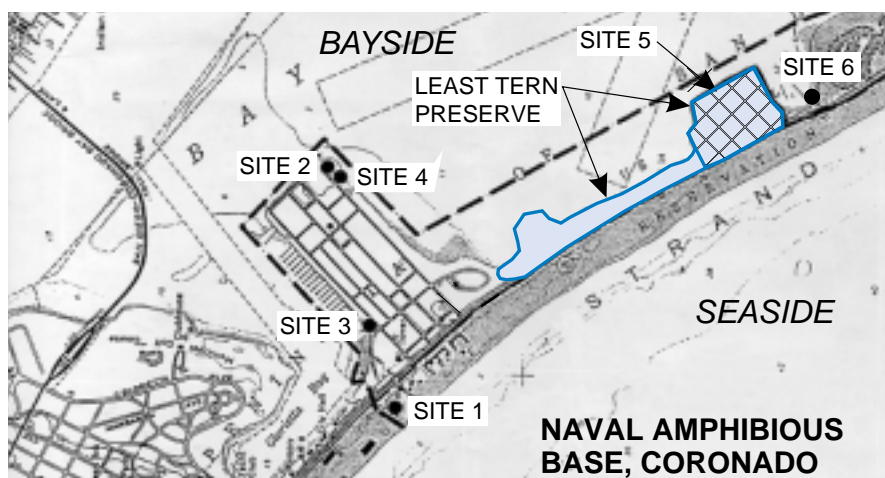


Figure 2

discovered and verified. During the next phase, site investigations/inspections are conducted and options for cleanup are developed and evaluated. A cleanup action (“**remedial**” action, referring to a remedy) is then proposed for regulatory agency and public review and comment. Finally, the remedial action is selected and implemented.

Throughout the various steps of the IR Program, response actions such as removal of wastes or other materials may need to be done. A “**removal**” action refers to an action undertaken to remove the risk from contaminants to human health or the environment. Such actions are necessary if it is determined that there is a potential

threat to human health or the environment that needs to be promptly addressed.

IR Program Sites at NAB

Industrial waste generation at NAB Coronado historically has centered around maintenance and repair of boats, trucks, and amphibious landing vehicles, and extensive painting operations. Past activities generated hazardous wastes including diesel fuel, gasoline, lubricating and motor oils, thinners, solvents, sandblast grit containing heavy metals, and paints. Past disposal practices, although acceptable at the time, often resulted in what is now considered to be improper handling and disposal of hazardous materials.

There are six sites at NAB Coronado being addressed under the IR Program. They are shown on Figure 2 and summarized below. The sites include:

- Site 1, Building 603 Disposal Pit
- Site 2, Old Refuse Disposal and Burn Area (landfill)
- Site 3, New Paint Shop Site
- Site 4, Sandblast Grit Disposal
- Site 5, Unexploded Ordnance Site
- Site 6, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Marina

In 1986, an Initial Assessment Study identified five potentially contaminated sites at NAB Coronado. (Site 5 was not recommended for additional study and was subsequently removed from the list of IR Program sites by the RWQCB.) In 1993, a Site Inspec-

tion/Solid Waste Assessment Test was completed that evaluated the conditions at Sites 1 through 4. DTSC concurred with the investigation’s findings, which recommended further studies at all four sites. An Extended Site Inspection for Sites 1 through 4 was performed in 1995-1996, and included further data collection to better define the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination identified by earlier studies. It also included an evaluation of risk to human health and the environment. In 1995, Site 6, the MWR Marina, was identified as an IR Program site. A site-by-site description and status update is presented below.

Site 1: Building 603 Disposal Pit.

This site was in operation from 1969 to 1982. It is estimated that 1,100 to 3,800 gallons of waste lubrication oils, paint wastes, and thinners from Building 603 operations were disposed of here. Following regulatory review of the Draft Extended Site Inspection report (see above), in 1997, DTSC determined that no further action was required for Site 1 because the risk to human health and the environment was found to be below the level requiring further remedial action.

Site 2: Old Refuse Disposal and Burn Area.

This site was in operation from the late 1940s to the early 1970s. Waste types identified as having been disposed of or burned at this site include waste motor oils, solvents, and possibly small arms ammunition. Additional sampling of soil, groundwater, and shoreline sediments is planned for Site 2 due to elevated levels of metal and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The Navy is currently working with regulators to finalize a screening-level ecological risk assessment for the shoreline sediments on site. Screening-level assessment compares actual contamination at the site with DTSC preliminary remediation goals.

Site 3: New Paint Shop Site. This site was in operation from the mid-1950s to the early 1980s. Waste types identified here include diesel fuel and solvents from the fueling facility and Public Works Center shops. It was determined by DTSC that no further action was required for the land portion of Site 3 because the risk to human health and the environment was found to be below the level

Community Involvement

The public has the opportunity and is invited to participate in the IR Program process at NAB Coronado. The 1999 Community Relations Plan for NAB Coronado guides the program for establishing two-way communication between the Navy and the community surrounding NAB Coronado regarding environmental cleanup activities. Since this plan will be updated once again in 2002, additional opportunities will exist for participation in community interviews that will be conducted in support of developing the updated plan. Look for more information in the near future about the upcoming community interviews and how you can take part!

requiring further remedial action. Additional investigation of the shoreline sediments is planned due to the presence of PCBs. The Navy is currently working with the regulators to finalize a screening-level ecological risk assessment for the shoreline sediments on site.

Site 4: Sandblast Grit Disposal Area. This site was in operation from the mid-1960s to the early 1980s. Waste types identified here include sandblast grit with paint chips containing heavy metals that resulted from base sandblasting operations. Additional sampling of soil, groundwater, and bayshore sediments is planned for Site 4 due to elevated levels of metal and PCBs. The Navy is currently working with regulators to finalize a screening-level ecological risk assessment for the shoreline sediments on site.

Site 5: Unexploded Ordnance Site. Site 5 was a disposal area for dredge spoils from a 1966 dredging project. The dredged material, used as fill at Site 5, was later discovered to contain ordnance. In 1969, approximately 7 feet of clean fill material was placed on top of the site. Because unexploded ordnance was buried and the site is restricted, Site 5 was subsequently excluded from further investigation under the IR Program based on the Initial Assessment Study recommendation and RWQCB determination. Additionally, in 1984 the Navy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service signed a formal agreement that set aside this area as a California Least Tern Preserve. The site is fenced and inaccessible to the public. No training or operational activities occur at the site.

Site 6: MWR Marina. Site 6 was added as an IR Program site in 1995 when it was discovered that routine maintenance performed on recreational boats had resulted in soil contamination due to the release of paint chips and other waste from sanding operations. A non-time-critical removal action was performed in 1998 to remove 1,002 tons of copper- and tributyltin-impacted soil. Additional groundwater sampling is planned for Site 6.

Restoration Advisory Board

A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is an advisory body which acts as a focal point for the exchange of information about environmental restoration activities between a military installation and the local community. The RAB brings together community members who reflect the diverse interests within the local community, providing opportunities for two-way flow of information concerns, values, and needs between the affected community and the Navy's cleanup team and regulatory agencies. RAB members meet regularly to review and comment on technical documents and plans relating to ongoing environmental investigations at a facility.

RAB members serve as volunteers, providing advice and recommendations to decision makers about restoration plans for the military facility. Members serve as a liaison to the community and meet with community members and groups. All RAB meetings are open to the public. Environmental support staff are available to provide information assistance to the RAB so a technical background is helpful, but not required, for RAB membership.

A RAB was established for NAS North Island in 1994 and has been meeting regularly for the past 7 years. Although extensive attempts were made to establish a RAB for NAB in 1995, sufficient public interest and support for an advisory board were lacking at that time. In 1997, NAB Coronado and NAS North Island were operationally consolidated into a

single administrative command. This fact sheet is one of several community outreach activities being conducted to reach an audience that is interested in activities at both NAS North Island and NAB Coronado.

All RAB meetings are open to the public. To find out more about becoming an advisory board member, or simply to hear about what's going on at NAS North Island and NAB Coronado, please attend the next RAB meeting:

Date: May 17, 2001

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Winn Room
Coronado Public Library
640 Orange Avenue
Coronado, CA

A Restoration Advisory Board membership application is included with this fact sheet.

Information Repository

An information repository—a publicly accessible location where IR Program-related documents and information are available—was established in 1995 for NAB Coronado. Environmental reports and other project-related documents are available for public review at the Coronado Public Library, located at 640 Orange Avenue in the city of Coronado. The library hours are as follows:

Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

For More Information

For more information on the Installation Restoration Program underway at NAB Coronado, or to find out more about the Restoration Advisory Board, please contact:

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Also visit the Navy's Web Sites, <http://neln.navy.mil> and <http://www.eidsw.navfac.navy.mil/pages/Envrnmntl.htm>

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Inside:

Information on Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

May 17, 2001, 6:30 p.m.

Winn Room, Coronado Public Library, Coronado, CA



MAILING LIST

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, then you are not on our mailing list. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list, please complete this form, clip, and mail to: **John Locke, Navy Region Southwest, Environmental Department–N4512.JL, 33000 Nixie Way, Bldg. 50, Suite 326, San Diego, CA 92147-5110, (619) 524-6405, e-mail: locke.john.b@asw.cnrsw.navy.mil**

Name _____

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Affiliation (optional) _____

E-mail address _____